



Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy

January 28, 1950 - December 25, 2022

Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy—a loving husband, father, grandfather and brother; devoted friend; and proud Mason—was born on January 28, 1950, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He laid down his working tools for eternal rest on December 25, 2022. Crane was the eldest of three children born to the late Thomas Harold and Delores Patten McElroy of Chattanooga, TN. He attended Chattanooga's Howard High School, where classmates described him as a continuously giving person and unwavering friend. At a very early age, Crane developed a passion for music and, while at Howard, he took great pride in being the head drum major of Howard's "Marching 100" marching band. After earning his high school diploma in 1967, Crane set his sights on attending Maryland State College, now known as the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore (UMES). He carried his love for music with him to Maryland State, where he pursued a bachelor's degree in music education. Although skilled at playing many instruments, he set them all aside to become the drum major of

the Maryland

State marching band. Coincidentally, his love for music led him to meet the love of his life, Lucy

“Cookie” Wright, who was a majorette in the band. Crane and Cookie not only loved traveling

together on band trips, but the two also enjoyed taking trips to see Cookie’s parents on the

Eastern Shore of Maryland. It was there where the couple eventually decided to settle down

and raise a family.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in 1972, Crane and Cookie returned to Chattanooga where

Crane became the band director at Howard High. He taught at his alma mater for several years

and even took classes to continue his education toward a master’s degree in classical music. In

1979, after Crane and Cookie returned to Maryland, Crane switched careers and began working

with the Maryland Division of Corrections in Baltimore, MD. Among many other duties, Crane

was responsible for the supervision of more than 50 officers, as well as for the safety and

security of the general population of inmates and the residential population in the area. After

more than 20 years of service, Crane retired as a lieutenant and shift commander at the Eastern

Pre-Release Unit in Queen Anne’s County.

Retirement, however, couldn’t keep him still. Crane stayed busy working different sales

positions—as an account specialist for Schwan’s Family Foods; and sales associate positions at

Bay Country Auto, and Sight and Sounds in Easton, MD; and Centreville Wireless in Centreville, MD. He also enjoyed filling his retirement days with visits from family, cooking on the grill and engaging friends in long conversations.

Crane had a passion for masonry and was a devoted member of the Thomas H. Kiah Lodge #101, where he served as Worshipful Master for several terms. A 32nd degree mason, Crane was always willing to help in any way he could by imparting Masonic knowledge, providing transportation for new Brothers to and from classes, and assisting the office of Grand Lecturer.

Past Master McElroy's presence will truly be missed by the members of Thomas H. Kiah and many other masons across the State.

Crane was preceded in death by his father and mother, Thomas Harold and Delores Patten McElroy; his wife of 49 years, Lucy Belle "Cookie" Wright McElroy; and a best friend, James "Sonny" Boaz.

Left to cherish his memory are his children—Tracy McElroy and daughter-in-law Debbie Paulus

McElroy, of Blacksburg, VA; Niki McElroy Grant and son-in-law, Toren Grant, of Laurel, MD; and

Tammy McElroy McNish and son-in-law, Kenrick McNish, of Minneapolis, MN; six grandchildren

—Ashley, Meghan, Camryn and Vincent McElroy, and Avery and Davis Grant; two siblings—

Carol J. "Jeanni" McElroy, of Chattanooga, TN; and Michael A. McElroy and

partner, Arthur

“Ajay” James, of Inglewood, CA; a nephew, Jere’l B. McElroy, of Atlanta, GA;
a best friend,

Sidney Edwards, of Chattanooga, TN; a host of cousins, relatives, and close
friends; and a grand-
pet, Ansley.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - Chestertown
855 High St.
Chestertown, MD 21620
(410) 778-2161
<https://www.benniesmithfuneralhome.com/>

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: The Lucy McElroy Scholarship Fund Thomas H. Kiah #101 Masonic Lodge 2030 Pondtown Rd. Chestertown, MD 21620

Visitation

JAN 7. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - Chestertown
855 High St.
Chestertown, MD 21620
(410) 778-2161
<https://www.benniesmithfuneralhome.com/>

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: The Lucy McElroy Scholarship Fund Thomas H. Kiah #101 Masonic Lodge 2030 Pondtown Rd. Chestertown, MD 21620

Masonic Service

JAN 7. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - Chestertown
855 High St.
Chestertown, MD 21620
(410) 778-2161
<https://www.benniesmithfuneralhome.com/>

All Are Welcome To Attend! In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: The Lucy McElroy Scholarship Fund Thomas H. Kiah #101 Masonic Lodge 2030 Pondtown Rd. Chestertown, MD 21620

Funeral Service

JAN 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - Chestertown
855 High St.
Chestertown, MD 21620
(410) 778-2161
<https://www.benniesmithfuneralhome.com/>

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Live Stream Broadcast on Facebook

JAN 7. 11:00 AM.

Bennie Smith Funeral Home MD / VA

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: The Lucy McElroy Scholarship Fund Thomas H. Kiah #101 Masonic Lodge 2030 Pondtown Rd. Chestertown, MD 21620

Tribute Wall



“ *Bennie Smith Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy*



Bennie Smith Funeral Home - January 07, 2023 at 11:24 AM

LP

“ *Sincere condolences to all the family.*



Lisa Plummer - January 13, 2023 at 04:34 PM

JK

“ *Josh Kinsey lit a candle in memory of Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy*



Josh Kinsey - January 09, 2023 at 11:21 PM

EM

“ Eddie And Tina Moaney lit a candle in memory of Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy



Eddie and Tina Moaney - January 09, 2023 at 08:37 PM

PT

“ Paulette Thompson lit a candle in memory of Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy



Paulette Thompson - January 08, 2023 at 05:09 PM

AB

“ My prayers are with you Nikki and Tammy 🙏

Aisha Bailey - January 07, 2023 at 09:30 PM

JJ

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



joanne johnson-shaw - January 07, 2023 at 10:54 AM

LJ

“ Keeping Everyone In Prayers And Thoughts!
Always Cherish The Memories!
Blessings! Lorraine Jenkins & Family
(Philippians 4:13)



Lorraine Jenkins - January 06, 2023 at 08:43 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy.



January 06, 2023 at 04:03 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of
Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy.



January 06, 2023 at 02:39 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for
the family of Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy.



January 06, 2023 at 12:31 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy.



January 05, 2023 at 09:22 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray* was purchased for the family of Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy.



January 05, 2023 at 07:54 PM



“ Sooooo many memories of growing up next door with Jeannie, Michael, and Orlando! God will give comfort at this time. What a wonderful life Orlando was blessed to have. So thankful I got to talk to him to say hello once again. Be strong in the Lord! He Will See you through! 🙏
Pat Woods and the Salmon Family.

Pat Salmon Woods - January 05, 2023 at 07:50 PM



“ *Claude salmon jr and Chattanooga family sending our condolences*

claude salmon jr - January 05, 2023 at 06:01 PM

SH

“ You all are in my prayers. Trust God and He will see you through this difficult time. Cousin Sharon

Sharon - January 05, 2023 at 02:28 PM

MM

“ Sympathy to the family . May God give you strenth during the days ahead. Madelyn M. Hollis

Madelyn M.Hollis - January 05, 2023 at 12:54 PM

OF

“ Orvin B Elliott & Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy.



Orvin B Elliott & Family - January 05, 2023 at 11:10 AM

BW

“ God Bless and Much Love! Tony, Betty Whyte and Family!



Betty Whyte - January 05, 2023 at 10:03 AM

IC

“ Iris Carter lit a candle in memory of Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy



Iris Carter - January 05, 2023 at 03:00 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy.



January 05, 2023 at 12:29 AM

JP

“ Janet E Pauls lit a candle in memory of Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy



Janet E Pauls - January 04, 2023 at 06:01 PM

NF

“ NSI Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy.



NSI Family - January 04, 2023 at 11:32 AM

GU

“ GSDO & Graduate School, UMN purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Orlando "Crane" Lorenzo McElroy.



GSDO & Graduate School, UMN - January 04, 2023 at 11:06 AM

DS

“ We will truly miss our friend Mac. He was one of the good guys David and Sherry Smith



David and Sherry Smith - January 03, 2023 at 06:06 PM